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He was struck with the beauty of the women, and he noted particularly the soft tone of their voices.

Dr. Lomonaco knew the history of the city and of Louisiana, and devoted much of his time to a study of the public institutions and the schools, for which he has nothing but praise.

His readers will have a good idea of New Orleans and its people.

The Natural Geographies. Natural Elementary Geography, by Jacques W. Redway. New York Cincinnati and Chicago, American Book Company. 4to. (1897.)

According to the publishers' announcement, the central idea of this primary geography is *man*, his history, customs, industries, and geographic relations. It may be doubted whether this constitutes such a title to originality as to justify the assumption of the term *natural*, as a distinctive epithet; but the book is none the less a good book, clear, concise and accurate, sound in the main and full of interest.

The text and the illustrations are mostly in right relation to each other, and not much is left for the pupil to unlearn.

Young Americans, however, will hardly incline to undervalue the United States, and the classification of Canada and Mexico as *minor* countries is not in the line of wholesome instruction.

The First Crossing of Spitsbergen, being an Account of an Inland Journey of Exploration and Survey, with Descriptions of several Mountain Ascents, of Boat Expeditions in Ice Fjord, of a Voyage to North-East Land, the Seven Islands, down Hinlopen Strait, nearly to Wiches Land, and into most of the Fjords of Spitsbergen, and of an almost complete circumnavigation of the main Island. By Sir William Martin Conway, M.A., F.S.A., F.R.G.S., sometime Roscoe Professor of Art, University College, Liverpool. With Contributions by J. W. Gregory, D. Sc., A. Trevor-Battye, and E. J. Garwood. Together with Eight Coloured Plates reproduced in facsimile from Sketches by H. E. Conway, Two Maps, and about One Hundred Full-Page and Text Illustrations from Photographs and Sketches. MDCCCXCVII. London—J. M. Dent & Co., 67 St. James's Street, S.W., and Aldine House, E.C.

Sir William Conway has taken possession of Spitzbergen, like an army with banners. Much has been written about this outpost in the Arctic Ocean, but few will care to look up the older records,

with this sumptuous volume before them, and the prospect of another in the near future.

The results of the summer's work are set forth in the introductory chapter. Thirteen mountain ascents were made, besides a survey of 600 square miles in the middle belt of the country and another of the hills on Wijde Bay, and what Sir William calls, somewhat hastily, the most complete voyage of reconnaissance ever accomplished in a single season. The main island was almost circumnavigated and nearly all its fjords were entered to their heads, and in all about 600 photographs were obtained. The scientific results were even more important than the topographical, if topography is not within the domain of science.

As a narrative, the book is full of incident and of interest, written simply and directly, for the most part, with but an occasional lapse into poetical quotation. Spitzbergen ought to attract the tourists who are in search of adventure and of danger. There are glaciers and ice-peaks, treacherous snow-fields and crevasses, and every possible chance of losing one's life for nothing. Sir William's companion, Garwood, had an enviable series of emotions, in a few minutes, over an ice torrent.

One curious effect of the climate is noted:

We were always slack, intellectually as well as physically. It was a labour to write, a labour to settle down to any work whatever. Yet the air seemed brisk, and came either over the snows or the sea. Purer air can scarcely be found. Though pure, however, it was certainly relaxing, and made life laborious. It possessed none of the stimulus of Alpine breezes. (P. 221.)

In the middle of August the little plants put on their autumn tints, many birds had disappeared, and the approach of winter was in the air and on the earth, and Sir William took his leave of his conquest in language less than enthusiastic:

Farewell to you, cold and barren slopes, icy broads, bulging glaciers, squidgy bogs, and land-locked waters of so many moods. (P. 318.)

The name *Spitsbergen*, we are told, is Dutch, and the form *Spitzbergen* is incorrect. Incorrect it would be, if it were presented as Dutch, but it happens to be the recognized English form of the name, and it will probably hold its ground. It is not easy to be consistent in advocating these reforms. Sir William Conway writes *Tristan d'Acunha*, without regard to the name of the great navigator, Da Cunha.